

**CLAIMS:**

1. A timing device for timing discrete periods of time, the device comprising:

at least one timer operable to measure the passing of a particular period of time without reference to the actual time of the day or to any specific hour or minute of the day, the length of the particular period of time being adjustable and the adjustability being limited to multiples of a discrete number of minutes or hours;

at least one input device operable to allow for adjusting the length of the particular period of time;

a controller operable to provide feedback signals relating to the operation and operative mode of the timing device, and further operable to produce an alarm signal;

at least one speaker; and

a voice chip operable to combine with the speaker and the controller to convert the feedback signals to audible human speech.

2. The device of claim 1, further comprising an ear-phone jack operable to provide a connection point for ear-phones the connection of which causes the speaker to cease operating while the ear-phones are connected.

3. The device of claim 1, the input device being a button.

4. The device of claim 1, the discrete number of minutes being fifteen minutes.

5. The device of claim 1, the discrete number of hours being one hour.

6. A timing device for timing discrete periods of time, the device comprising:

- at least one timer operable to measure the passing of a particular period of time without reference to the actual time of the day or to any specific hour or minute of the day, the length of the particular period of time being adjustable and the adjustability being limited to multiples of a discrete number of minutes or hours;
- at least one input device operable to allow for adjusting the length of the particular period of time;
- a controller circuit operable to provide feedback signals relating to the operation and operative mode of the timing device, and further operable to produce an alarm signal;
- at least one speaker;
- at least one memory device operable to record and store a message for future playback; and
- a voice chip operable to combine with the speaker, the memory device, and the controller to convert the feedback signals and the message into audible human speech.

7. The device of claim 6, further comprising an ear-phone jack operable to provide a connection point for ear-phones the connection of which causes the speaker to cease operating while the ear-phones are connected.

8. The device of claim 6, the input device being at least one button.

9. The device of claim 6, the discrete number of minutes being fifteen minutes.

10. The device of claim 6, the discrete number of hours being one hour.

11. The device of claim 6, the device further comprising a microphone.